

Message Text

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SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON
COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN,
SAN JOSE, JULY 12-21.

REFERENCE: SAN JOSE 3477

1. IN INFORMAL CORRIDOR CONTACTS WITH DELS OF MEMBER
STATES LIKELY TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO US DEFENSE OF FREE FLOW
AND OPPOSITION TO CONTROL OF MEDIA, ESPECIALLY THE NEWS
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AGENCIES CURRENTLY UNDER ATTACK, US OBSERVER DEL SHOULD

SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP CONCERN RE
VENEZUELAN DRAFT RESOLUTION (DR) REPORTED REFTEL AND PRO-
VIDE THEM WITH AMMUNITION TO USE DURING CONFERENCE.

2. AS EMPHASIZED SEPTTEL, WHICH CONTAINS GUIDANCE FOR
PRESS CONTACTS, US HAS FREQUENTLY ACKNOWLEDGED NEED TO
BRING GREATER "BALANCE" TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS
BUT "BALANCE" SHOULD BE ACHIEVED BY ADDING TO ONE SIDE
(WHICH US PROPOSES UNESCO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO
DO, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES) RATHER
THAN BY TAKING AWAY FROM THE OTHER. VENEZUELAN DR TAKES
NEGATIVE APPROACH OF EMPHASIZING CONTROL, WHICH INEVITABLY
MEANS CENSORSHIP AND A DIMINUTION OF THE FLOW OF INFOR-
MATION. IF THIS HAPPENS, THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT WILL
CLEARLY BE HANDICAPPED.

3. AS EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE FIND MOST OBJECTIONABLE IN
VENEZUELAN DR, WE WOULD CITE FREQUENT, EVEN REPETITIVE
REFERENCES TO NEED FOR "INSTRUMENTS" (I.E. CONTROLS) FOR
ACHIEVING "BALANCE", IN CONTRAST TO SILENCE ON IMPORTANCE
OF EXPANDING INSTITUTIONS, FACILITIES, AND AVAILABLE
EXPERTISE.

4. WE MUST ALSO REJECT DR'S CHARGE (PREAMBULAR 5) THAT
THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ADOPTED A POLICY OF IMPEDING
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIRD WORLD COMMUNICATION CAPABILITIES.
THE PRESENT IMBALANCE IN THIS AREA IS MERELY ANOTHER
REFLECTION OF THE IMBALANCE IN LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT OF ALL
KINDS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

5. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE BASIC ISSUE POSED BY THE
VENEZUELAN DR IS WHETHER THE FLOW OF INFORMATION WILL BE
FREE OR CONTROLLED AND WHETHER THE IMBALANCE IN LEVELS
OF FLOW AND OF COMMUNICATION CAPABILITIES WILL BE CORRECTED
UPWARD OR DOWNWARD. AS IT NOW STANDS, THE VENEZUELAN
DR COMES DOWN STRONGLY ON SIDE OF REDUCED, CONTROLLED FLOW
EVEN WHEN IT IS CALLED "COORDINATION", AS IN OPERATIONAL
PARA 5.

6. CENTRAL THEME WHICH USDEL SHOULD EMPHASIZE IS THAT
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VENEZUELAN DR POINTS IN OPPOSITE DIRECTION TO THAT WHICH
SERVES DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THIRD WORLD. US AND LIKE-
MINDED STATES FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT FREE FLOW AND DEVELOPMENT
ARE INSEPARABLE, THAT EACH SERVES THE OTHER AND THAT ALL
MEMBER STATES MUST OPPOSE ANY BACKING AWAY FROM UNESCO'S
CONSTITUTIONAL GOAL OF "THE UNRESTRICTED PURSUIT OF
OBJECTIVE TRUTH" AND "THE FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND
KNOWLEDGE" BASED ON A DETERMINATION "TO DEVELOP AND TO

INCREASE THE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THEIR PEOPLES."
A CONTROLLED, DIMINISHED FLOW OF INFORMATION WOULD
OBVIOUSLY SERIOUSLY IMPAIR THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES'
OPPORTUNITIES TO ASSIST, THROUGH UNESCO AND IN OTHER WAYS,
THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT.

ROBINSON

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